



Marion Hascin, Sandra Rangel, Diana Carpenter and Jessina Trujillo qualify with the 9mm pistol in the Engagement Skills Trainer.

Photo by Alice Adler

# 94th Eng spouses take shots at stress

by Alice Adler  
Training Times Staff

The air in Hohenfels was alive, Sept. 30, with the crackle of gunfire and the sound of automatic weapons. But it was not a unit training for an upcoming deployment, or Soldiers sharpening their shooting skills. It was the spouses of A Company, 94th Engineer Battalion, who filled the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) for the day, shooting down bad guys in a variety of different training scenarios.

The Hohenfels EST has been open for five months and is used to train Soldiers in marksmanship skills. A variety of video scenarios, some live action and some computer generated are used. The system allows users to fire real weapons at the scenarios, electronically calculating their hits and misses. EST Inspector/Operator Rick Wainio noted that although a variety of VIPs have come through the facility, this is the first time a family readiness group (FRG) has tried it.

At the EST the spouses, many done up in a variety of combat gear, were taught range safety and how to use a variety of differ-

ent weapons. Everyone was given the opportunity to fire a 9mm pistol, an M-16, and M-203, and M-249 and a shotgun.

The 94th Eng. Bn. has been deployed to Iraq for nine months. Rear detachment commander Staff Sgt. Alison Kempke came up with the idea of bringing the spouses to the EST as a way for them to learn a little more about what their Soldiers are doing in Iraq, and to let off a little steam. Kempke said she considered a number of possible FRG outings. "The pool, the zoo, people can take themselves there," said Kempke, "I'm gonna take them to the range!"

Most of the spouses had never shot a weapon before and were excited about the opportunity to try it out. About 20 spouses took part in the day, which was, by everyone's account, a great success.

"It's awesome," said Stephanie Hagar, who liked the 9mm qualifications range the best.

"I liked it very much," said Marion Hascin, "I didn't expect it to be that much fun!"

"They don't want to have FRG meetings anymore," said Kempke, "they just want to come here."

Learning what their Soldiers are doing in Iraq was an eye-opening experience for many who cited the weight of the weapons and the difficulty of hitting the targets as some of the surprises they encountered. Most were interested in firing the specific weapons that their Soldiers are using in Iraq.

The day had another added benefit as well. "It's great stress relief," said Jesseina Trujillo, "and right now I can really use it. It takes a load off your shoulders."

Many spouses said their Soldiers were excited that they were getting the chance to try out the weapons. "He wants me to send photos," stated Trujillo about her husband's reaction.

At the October FRG meeting, Kempke plans to hand out awards to the best marksman, and the best outfitted "Rambo" of the day.

Some who had planned to attend for only an hour or so ended up staying at the EST all day. "Look, they're all having fun," noted Hascin, "That's the main thing."

## In brief

### Home work help

Ever considered working from home? Sieglinde Schedl, commercial affairs officer, can you help you learn the rules and benefits of running a home-based business in Germany. Call 09641-83-6753 or 475-6753, or stop by Building 244, Room 239 to learn about the process.

### Landstuhl outreach

An outreach trip to Landstuhl Medical Center to visit with wounded Soldiers is scheduled for Oct. 22. This trip is open to adults who would like to provide comfort and support to the Soldiers being treated at the center. A bus will depart at 6:30 a.m. from the Grafenwoehr Burger King parking lot, and return at 6:30 p.m. that day. Transportation is free although participants will need money for lunch and snacks.

Donations for the Fisher House will also be accepted. Item suggestions include cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, plastic ware, napkins, paper towels, paper plates, napkins, coffee supplies, garbage and storage bags and toilet tissue. Donations will be accepted at the Grafenwoehr Chapel Annex.

To sign up for the outreach trip, or to learn more about donation needs, contact Mindy Hardin at [mindy.hardin@us.army.mil](mailto:mindy.hardin@us.army.mil).

### Free classifieds

All community members can advertise used automobiles, homes for pets, and much more. Advertising is free. Just go to <http://www.rlehner.de/trainingtimes/freeclass.htm> to complete the online form. Classified ad deadline for the Oct. 26 Training Times issue is Oct. 21.

### Library cooks up Thanksgiving feast

Learn how to prepare the perfect Thanksgiving meal. Classes will be Oct. 26, 2-4 p.m., at the Grafenwoehr Library, and Oct. 27, 2-5 p.m. at the Tower View Restaurant. Call 475-1740 or 09641-83-1740 for more information.

### Area AWAG conference

The American Women's Activities, Germany, will host the Oberfalz Area Conference Nov. 19, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Tower View, Grafenwoehr. "Proud of Our Past, Focused on Our Future - 50 Years of AWAG Conferences" is the theme. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Registration deadline is Nov. 11. Call 09662-701146 to register or to learn more.

### Rearranging furniture

The Vilseck furniture store reopens Oct. 15 in building 215 (the old Power Zone building). The Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels furniture stores will close permanently Oct. 14.

### PWOC meets weekly

The Vilseck Protestant Women of the Chapel invite you to worship, bible study, fellowship and fun. Meetings are Tuesdays, 9-11:30 a.m. in the Vilseck Chapel.

### American Red Cross classes set

The following are classes offered in USAG-G:

- Babysitting - Oct. 17-19, 3:30-6 p.m., Vilseck;
- Volunteer orientation - Oct. 18, 9:30-11 a.m., Grafenwoehr, and Nov. 1, 9:30-11 a.m., Vilseck;
- Adult CPR and first aid - Nov. 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Vilseck.

Cost for the babysitting and adult CPR and first aid classes is \$25 each. Questions? Call 476-1760 or 09662-83-1760.

### AFTB training

Army Family Team Building offers more than 40 continuing education courses organized on three levels. Call 09662-83-2650, or stop by Building 221, Room 207, Rose Barracks to register for the upcoming classes:

- Level I - Nov. 3-4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.;
- Level III - Nov. 16-18, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.



Photo by Alice Adler

## Soul food

Members and guests of Catholic Women of the Chapel kicked off their year on Sept. 8 with a potluck brunch in the Hilltop chapel center. The CWOC meets every Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.